BARUNG

LANDCARE NEWS

April - June

2014

Barung Resource Centre
Room 1/38A Coral Street
PO Box 1074
MALENY Q 4552
Mon to Fri: 9 am - 4 pm
07 5494 3151
info@barunglandcare.org.au

Barung Nurseries
0429 943 152
nursery@barunglandcare.org.au

Retail:
Porters Lane NORTH MALENY
WED to FRI: 9 am - 3 pm
SAT: 9 am - 12 noon

Wholesale:
65 Amigh Rd LANDSBOROUGH
By appointment

WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE

www.barunglandcare.org.au

Patt Gregory will show how to build a $10 table step by step.

More Wood for Everyone at Wood Expo 2014!

by Mim Coulstock

On the first weekend in May, Barung's annual Wood Expo will bring thousands of visitors to the Maleny Showgrounds - families, farmers, farm foresters, woodworkers, locals and tourists from across South East Queensland and interstate - all of whom love wood.

Unlike other wood shows, at The Maleny Wood Expo our wood artisans are required to work with sustainably harvested native, weed or recycled timbers. The Expo tells the whole 'timber' story from seed collection through planting forests, harvesting and milling to the end product - the furniture, while promoting sustainable use of our native timbers.

For the first time - simple projects for children in Carba-Tec's 'Creative Space'.

As Steve McLeish, Expo Coordinator says, "We're really excited to have more hands-on woodwork this year. For the first time, kids can experience the fun of woodwork thanks to Carba-Tec's 'Creative Space' where Carol and Holly will show kids how to use basic woodworking tools with simple projects suited to three to six-year-olds and six to ten-year-olds. And Mullumbimby's Patt Gregory, is our guest demonstrator with her 'Woodwork For Women' course, encouraging women to get onto the world of wood." For over 12 years, Patt Gregory has been helping women learn to navigate the timber racks and tool aisles of timber yards and hardware stores. At the Expo, she'll build a $10 Table giving step-by-step instructions with easy-to-use tools and hands-on audience participation while answering any questions you may have about the wood world.

And then there are the 2014 WoodShed Workshops which are open to everyone. Don Powell's Hand Held Carving offers an entry into the wonderful world of wood carving for both advanced carvers and beginners including women. On completion of this two-day workshop everyone takes home a finished piece. *(cont'd page 7)*

President's Report

by Eric Anderson

This time of the year is all about the Maleny Wood Expo being staged for the 18th time, over the weekend of May 3 and 4. The weekend begins with the awarding of this year's Wootha Prize. The Wootha is now the richest woodworking competition in Queensland. The success of the Wood Expo depends very much on the efforts of many volunteers – an early registration to indicate your interest will help volunteer coordinator, Jonathan Waites' nights to be a bit more restful.

A new Barung project called 'Gardens for Wildlife' will be launched in Maleny on Sunday 25th May at 2 pm. More details can be found on page 8. The project is being established by a small Barung sub-committee of Rod Kerr, Joan Dillon, Susie Duncan, Fuschia Collard and Jonathan Waites with funding from a Qld Government Department of Environment and Heritage Protection 'Everyone's Environment' grant.

Page 6 provides details from the first of our (approximately monthly) Community Events for the year - a successful Tick Information Session held in Maleny, attended by some 60 people. The next event will be a Koala Workshop organised by Susie Duncan, leader of the Hinterland Bush Links Project. While on the subject of Hinterland Bush Links if you want to get some dirt under your fingernails, check the Barung website and join one of the regular Roving Restorers' excursions.

As a follow-up to the critical water shortage at our Landsborough Nursery, what a difference a day makes. On the 26th of March the dam was for all intents empty, but following overnight rain, it was overflowing on the 27th March. Yes, we should have adequate water for the foreseeable future, but it did expose the lack of a long-term water management plan for the site. This is now the subject very serious planning.

It was sad to learn recently of the passing of two of our early members, Denise Irons, who joined in October 1990 and Bill Egerton, who joined in February 1991. They were contributors in many ways over many years that helped develop our wonderful organisation. Our sincere condolences to their relatives and friends.

Free Expo for Volunteers!

by Jonathan Waites

More than 100 people still have the opportunity to have a great in-depth experience of the Wood Expo without having to pay to get in! But be quick; the Expo is almost upon us!

(L to R) Marisse Anderson, Martina Gordon and David McAully having a great time volunteering at Wood Expo 2013.

There are plenty of positions still available in Admissions, BBQ, Parking, Set up/pull down etc. If you can't find an area listed on the Registration form that appeals to you, please ring me at the office and I will find a great way for you to contribute.

There are some quite specific roles we need filled: a volunteer with a ute with roof racks to transport 5.5m lengths of bamboo from Landsborough to the Maleny Showgrounds on Wednesday the 30th April, to be returned on Tuesday the 6th May. Also needed, are 4 people to help with chilren's workshops - one each for the morning and afternoon on Saturday and Sunday.

To take part as a volunteer you can either :
- Download and print the Registration Form from the Barung website: www.barunglandcare.org.au or the Wood Expo website: www.malenywoodexpo.com.au and return or email Barung Resource Centre or Nursery (addresses front page).

- Register yourself online (see Barung website homepage)

- Fill in a Registration Form at the Barung Resource Centre or Porters Lane Nursery (addresses front page)

- Phone the Barung Resource Centre (07) 5494 3151

Towels Needed for Koala Care

Endeavour Veterinary Ecology (looking after koalas along the Moreton Bay Rail Link) needs towels for use in cages, to wash bottoms and to wrap around branches so that ulcerated koalas can find a comfortable position. If you have any clean towels to spare, that you no longer need, please drop them in to the Porters Lane Nursery North Maleny or the Barung Office, Hinterland Business Centre, 1/38A Coral Street Maleny, **before Koala Workshop on 23rd April when they can be given to Vanda Grabowski.**

Hinterland Bush Links

EVENTS

First Friday of each month

Little Yabba Bushcare - Little Yabba Park, Cambroon in the Mary Valley 8 am -11am

Vegetation restoration along the banks of Little Yabba Creek, followed by a cuppa and a short bushwalk nearby.

Wed 23 April – Koala Workshop cost $10 7-9 pm

Hinterland Business Centre, 38A Coral St, Maleny

Local koala carer, Wanda Grabowski, shares her depth of knowledge about koalas and threats to their survival, encouraging landholders to provide foliage for their feed.

Mon 28 April - Roving Restorers

Booloumba Creek, Mary Valley 9.00 am -12 pm

Join us weeding trees planted at the launch of Hinterland Bush Links. Morning tea provided. Optional rainforest walk and/or swim after. Bring togs and lunch if you'd like to stay on. Car pool from Maleny IGA carpark at 8.00 am or travel independently for 9 am start.

Fri 9 May - Roving Restorers

Johnston Nature Refuge, Buderim 9 am -12 pm

Join us for a morning of understorey weeding at this long-protected Nature Refuge connecting several conservation reserves in Buderim, with option of a lovely walk.Car pool at the back of Maleny IGA carpark at 8.00 am or travel independently for a 9 am start.

(continued page 3)

Hinterland Bush Links
connecting restoring protecting the Sunshine Coast Hinterland

Tuans need connections

by Susie Duncan, HBL Coordinator

You could rightly accuse me of a bias towards Tuans, aka Brush-tailed Phascogales. I have written about them in two past newsletters and my daughter's second name is Duan - the indigenous way of saying it. But after a recent visit to the Tuan Environmental Reserve at Cambroon in the Upper Mary Valley, I realised that there was another interesting story to share about this gorgeous animal and the significance of connecting bush for its survival.

Sunshine Coast Council purchased Tuan Reserve on Chinaman Creek in Spring 2013. Apart from the Tuan it is home to the rare Rufous Bettong and the threatened Glossy Black-Cockatoo, Koala and Black-breasted Button-Quail. It also protects critically endangered Lowland Rainforest and other important habitat. And very importantly, it contributes to the Cambroon Wildlife Corridor which links National Parks in the Blackall and Conondale ranges. This has been a key focus for Hinterland Bush Links since we started.

Alan & Stacey Franks from Hollow Log Homes have a property that abuts Tuan Reserve and over many years they have done a great job of caring for the forest now in the reserve. Council is also to be congratulated for purchasing this environmentally significant land for conservation. For those of you in the Sunshine Coast Council region, I would encourage you to let your local Councillor know how much you value the environment levy for its contribution to acquisitions like this, as well as a wide range of environmental outreach and grant support to landholders such as the Land for Wildlife program and Landholder Environment Grants.

Tuan in a nest box (photo: Eileen Collins)

So back to the Tuan. This little, marsupial carnivore is similar to an Antechinus but about 4 times bigger. It has a fluffy tail and when it is under duress, the tail hair stands on end so that it looks like a bottlebrush. Depending on how much tucker is around, this species can range over a forest area of up to 100 ha and each individual will use many different tree hollows for shelter. So they need a lot of continuous forest with large hollow-bearing trees to support a population. Fortunately the Conondale National Park provides this habitat.

On the Blackall Range, forested land is much more fragmented so the best way of ensuring that there is enough habitat to support this species, is to connect up the fragments. This is particularly important in the case of the Tuan because every year, the entire male population dies after a testosterone-fuelled mating frenzy. The future of the species in any district, is reliant on the male offspring that result from that reproductive frenzy. If a drought or fire impacts seriously on their reproductive success in an isolated area of habitat, that seals the demise of that population. To prevent this scenario it is important that these habitat fragments are connected with broad wildlife corridors to more extensive and resilient forest areas. That way, the animals have a chance to move back into fragments of bush and populate them once again.

You might like to consider this when planning restoration on your own land. Think about how you can connect up habitat with your neighbours or an adjacent reserve to ensure a future for Tuans and all our other wonderful wildlife.

This Tuan took up residence in a letterbox at Boulumba Creek.

The owner provided a cardboard wine cask and shredded paper to make it feel more at home and to sway it from shredding letters. (photos: Christopher Lee)

Events ...*continued from page 2*

Sat 10 May – **Fungi Workshop cost $10** *9 -12 noon*
Hinterland Business Centre, 38A Coral St, Maleny
Fran Guard, co-author of 'Australian Sub-tropical Fungi' leads this fascinating workshop on the role of fungi in the restoration of your local bush. Bring your own fungus to find out its role in its local habitat. Morning tea provided.

Fri 23 May - **Roving Restorers**
Dilkusha Nature Refuge, Balmoral Ridge 9 -12 noon
Join us for a morning of hand-weeding privet at this beautiful Obi Creek property, restored over many years with opportunity to explore. Car pool from Maleny IGA carpark at 8.30 am or travel independently for 9 am start.

Fri 6 June - **Roving Restorers & Creating Habitat Wkshp.** *Wilsons Pocket near Gympie 9.30am-3.30 pm*
An exciting day out at Marc Russell's 40 acre property on Tinana Creek. Vegetation ranges from rainforest to Spotted Gum forest. Threatened species include Giant Barred Frog, Mary River Cod, Archidendron lovelliae and Pineapple Zamia. Weeding, (byo) lunch, walk & talk workshop with Marc. Car pool at the back of Maleny IGA carpark at 7.30 am or travel independently for a 9.30 am start.

For all outdoor events: *All tools are provided. Please bring gloves, water, boots, insect repellent and sunscreen. Long-sleeved shirt, trousers and hat are essential (Work Place Health and Safety Regulations).*
For enquiries and directions please contact Susie Duncan
Ph: 5429 6622 E: sduncan@hinterlandbushlinks.org
Further Details: www.hinterlandbushlinks.org
Please register with Barung Landcare Ph. 5494 3151
www.barunglandcare.org.au

Activity @ Porters Lane

NURSERY NOTES by Fuschia Collard

Hi Everyone,
Rain at last! Nature has finally provided us with what we need to get planting before winter. I'm looking forward to seeing lots of members and Land for Wildlife property owners very soon. Additionally, the rain has saved us from relocating a truck load of young stock from the Landsborough production nursery to Maleny. It's good to be reminded of how precious water is.

On a different note, 18 nursery volunteers and staff were invited to a 'Tea & Tour' with Douglas Haynes on Tuesday March 11th. Douglas and his wife Estelle, have worked tirelessly to create a lush tropical and subtropical rainforest paradise, providing habitat for many species of wildlife including large varieties of birds and reptiles. It was hard to believe that 12 years ago we would have been looking at barren cow paddocks. Thank you Douglas for inspiring us and making those many hours of weeding tubestock all seem worthwhile.

Volunteers and staff enjoying Douglas' tropical paradise.

Wayne and I also enjoyed the company of the year 12 Agriculture class from Maleny High School on Tuesday 25th March. The class, lead by teacher Katina Lindhout, came to the Landsborough production nursery to learn the finer details of seed propagation and tubing. They were excellent, enthusiastic students and we wish them all the best with setting up their own nursery on the school grounds. We are happy to help in whatever way we can. After the visit, Katina wrote:

Hi Wayne & Fuschia,

Thanks again for a great day out – I think you caught the interest of the students! I was very proud of the questions they were asking you...I will be in touch with our successes (and probably failures!). The main thing is that we have something to start with now.

Kind regards,
Katina Lindhout
Agriculture Co-ordinator, Maleny State High School

It's been a wonderful season for seeds. Thank you to all the members who have taken the time to collect and drop off their excess. Thanks again to all of our dedicated Maleny and Landsborough volunteers and special thanks to John Arias for building an awning for the Porters Lane office (just in time!).

That's it from me. You can find current retail stock listed online at www.barunglandcare.org.au and plenty of beautiful tubestock at Porters Lane, so come and see us soon, now including Saturday mornings 9am to 12 noon.

Happy planting, Fuschia

Grevillea hilliana - White Silky Oak Family: *Proteaceae*

PLANT PROFILE by Paul Barnes

Grevillea hilliana, the While Silky Oak or White Yiel-Yiel, is a tree of 8-30 metres height, somewhat shorter and slimmer than *Gravillea robusta*, the better known Silky Oak. Found in littoral and riverine rainforest from Brunswick Heads in northern NSW, to near Cooktown in north-east Queensland, it is often associated with Kauri Pine (*Agathis robusta*) in drier rain forests.

The trunk is sometimes flanged or slightly buttressed in large trees, which may have slightly rough and scaly bark toward the base. Bark is generally smooth brown or grey with numerous light brown pustules. Timber is reddish brown, beautifully grained and can be used for veneer, cabinets and violins like other Silky Oaks.

Leaves are green on the upper surface and silvery and silky on the underside. Immature leaves are deeply divided and larger,

White flowers 10 - 20 cms long, appear June to December.

exceeding 25 cm. Branchlets are silver or rusty, due to dense, minute hairs. Flowers appear June to December and are white in dense, auxiliary, cylindrical racemes 10-20 cm long. They produce plenty of nectar, reputedly used as a bush food and by butterflies and birds.

Grevellia hilliana *grows from 8-30 m.*

Fruits are a black, woody, boat-shaped follicle about 22-26 by 14-16 mm and are ripe from February to July. The seeds have a marginal papery wing, measuring in their entirity, about 16-20 by 9-11 mm. Fresh seed germinates readily.

This is a hardy and attractive tree for revegetation or the garden, requires less space than *Grevillia robusta* and with larger, more easily viewed flowers. There are plenty in stock at your Porters Lane Landcare Nursery.

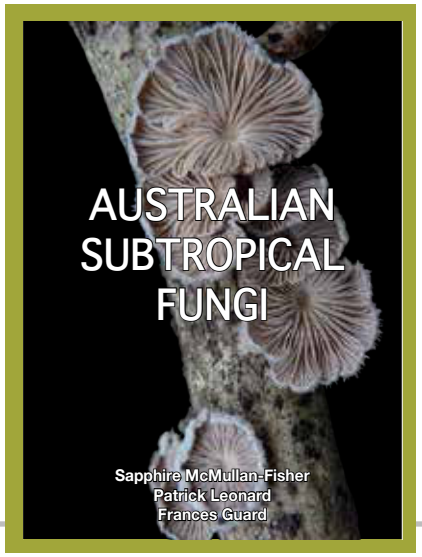
Book Review - *Australian Subtropical Fungi*

by Frances Guard

Being a long time supporter of Barung and resident of Dilkusha Nature Refuge, I have just co-authored a field guide on fungi of the Subtropics of Australia.

Fungi have become my passion as I have observed their role in the health and restoration of natural ecosystems of South-east Queensland.

This book combines an introduction to the Kingdom of Fungi and simple keys to help beginners sort out the diverse fungi groups that occur in this bio-region. As well, 115 individual species are described and beautifully illustrated. Some of these are common and familiar to most, while others are rare and several are described for the first time in this book.



'Australian Subtropical Fungi' is a handy-sized, sturdy field guide that will be valuable to beginners and experienced fungiphiles alike.

Co-authored by Sapphire McMullan-Fisher and Patrick Leonard, the book will be officially launched on April 24th at the Fungi Festival.

Copies that I have signed will be for sale at the Wood Expo, and later at Rosetta Books and my fungi workshop on 10th May. The price is $30.

The Stonemaker - *Laccocephalum tumulosum*

FUNGAL FORAY by Frances Guard

As some of you may know, in January a bushfire burnt out the Mt Tibrogargan National Park. It was a scene of blackened eucalypts and casuarinas and scorched earth.

Laccocephalum tumulosum or 'The Stonemaker' appeared after *bushfire at Mt Tibrogargan National Park.*

A week later I was contacted by the Park Ranger to let me know that there were some dinner-plate sized fungi growing in the charred ground.

Bob and I hastened down to have a look. The ground was 'littered' with enormous orange-brown, flattish fungi ranging in size from 60 to 250 mm in diameter. They had rather short stout stems, and soft, spongy pores under the caps. But the most interesting thing about them, was that they were attached to an underground 'tuber' called a 'pseudosclerotium'. This required a mattock to dig up, and it was difficult to keep it intact as it was so large and heavy. The one photographed weighed almost 2 kg. This unusual fungus is a *Laccocephalum tumulosum* or 'The Stonemaker'.

It apparently lives underground and gradually forms the 'tuber' over years. The pseudosclerotium consists of soil and fungal threads mixed together. It rarely fruits, but after fire, it is triggered to produce fruit bodies and these may number in the hundreds.

They are very quickly predated by insects.

Laccocephalum *tumulosum*
(photos: Frances Guard)

Barung Membership Discounts at Local Businesses

by Lindsay Kruger

Discounts on retail items and services are now available to Barung Landcare members from a small but growing number of local businesses. The next time you shop at participating businesses, simply produce your Barung membership card and ask the sales person for your discount. The amount of the discount varies with each business and doesn't apply to already discounted items.

If you're a financial member and don't have a membership card, simply phone Barung's office on 5494 3151 to arrange to pick up your card at 1/38A Coral St (Hinterland Business Centre). If you're not a member, now's a good time to join!

Kristy Xavier of Sapling Textiles and The Industree, gives Barung member 5% discount.
(photo: Eli Holzberger)

Participating Maleny businesses are currently:

Bi Rite Electrical
Clear Leigh Optical
Imelda's on Maple
Nellies Creative Hair Design
Maleny Butchery
Maleny Curry Mahal
Maleny Mowers
Maleny Town & Country Supplies
Mark and Lee's Massage
Nellies Creative Hair Design
Rosetta Books
Sapling Textiles
Sweets on Maple
The Industree

Ticks and Us - a Barung community event

by Jonathan Waites

The 'Ticks' talk on March 19th attracted around 60 people to the Verandah Room at the rear of the Maleny Community Centre where a local vet and nurse shared their perspectives on these nasty little arachnids.

Kurt Watter and his wife Sally, previously of Coral St. Veterinary Clinic, have a wealth of experience with the paralysis tick (*Ioxodes holocyclus*), our most troublesome tick on the east coast. Briefly Kurt's presentation covered the following:

• After hatching, the tick's life cycle (approximately a year in duration) is made up of three stages – larvae, nymph, adult. Each stage utilises a different host (mammal, bird or reptile).

• Ticks on dogs often attach forward of the dog's shoulders – it is believed to be due in part, to the fact that ticks are attracted to carbon dioxide in the dog's breath. Check the head of animals first if there are symptoms of tick bite.

• Ticks may stay attached to the host for 5 - 6 days. A significant ingestion of toxin will have occurred by days 3 - 4, after which paralysis will begin. Days 5 - 6 are particularly serious. Symptoms in order of presentation may include a slight cough, an odd bark, vomiting, weakness in the hind legs, respiratory distress followed by possible death due to cardio-respiratory paralysis.

• Treatment- remove tick immediately. Some mouthparts may remain embedded but it is more important to remove the tick and halt the ingestion of toxins. A dog can continue to suffer from the toxins for up to 72 hours following tick removal and its condition may deteriorate further before it begins to improve. A trip to the vet and a dose of tick anti-serum is highly recommended.

• Some dogs can develop a degree of immunity from exposure to ticks but this may be lost rapidly if the animal is not exposed for a period of time (e.g. if it leaves the area). Sometimes animals that exhibit a degree of immunity in one area will succumb to a tick bite when moved to another area. Check dogs daily (every day) during peak tick season (September to December).

Jude Carlson, began as a nurse at Maleny Hospital three years ago, with an extensive career in nursing behind her. In summary Jude covered the following points in her talk:

• There has been an increase in the number of anaphylactic reactions from tick bites presenting at the hospital over the last six months or so. This is being researched by medical superintendent at Maleny Hospital, Dr. Ted Chamberlain.

• Tick larvae are particularly prevalent at the moment (not surprising given that their peak period is autumn). These are very small, often referred to as 'seed' or 'grass' ticks, that tend to congregate in clusters, are then picked up by a host, causing an area of irritation often referred to as scrub itch, when they bite. Lyclear Scabies Cream (active ingredient permethrin: a common synthetic chemical, widely used as an insecticide, acaricide, and insect repellent.) is a useful treatment which kills the tick quite quickly.

• Adult ticks can often be removed using tweezers or tick twisters. Because paralysis ticks can become so firmly attached, it is almost inevitable that some of the mouthparts may remain behind. This is usually not a problem and they will be expelled in the normal course of healing. However, the wound may become infected due to exposure to other bacteria in the environment, especially during the wet season.

• An allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) to tick bites may produce the following symptoms: weals on the body, tongue swelling, vulva itching, respiratory distress. An EpiPen can be used to self-administer an emergency dose of adrenaline in the case of anaphylaxis. Following an anaphylactic reaction to tick bite, an easing of symptoms may be followed by a recurrence of severe symptoms 24 hours or more later.

Approximately 60 people attended the 'tick' presentation at the Maleny Community Centre, Verandah Room, in March.

• Audience members reported that products such as 'Aerostart' and 'Start Ya Bastard' (treatments to aid starting engines) were effective for killing ticks (they contain a mixture of petroleum, ether and ethanol and are therefore potentially carcinogenic). An audience member who has suffered anaphylactic reactions and works regularly outdoors, washes clothing with permethrin to kill any ticks which might otherwise survive normal washing.

• Lyme Disease (a bacterial infection transmitted by ticks in the Northern Hemisphere) is not recognised by medical authorities in Australia, however we may have a related organism that produces similar symptoms. Murdoch University in WA has been awarded an Australian Research Council Linkage Grant, to further their tick research program. If you would like to be involved (they are collecting ticks) go to http://www.lymedisease.org.au/wpcontent/uploads/2010/11/LDAADrIrwinTickProject.pdf

• Tick Typhus is a disease caused by the microorganism *Rickettsia australis* transmitted to humans via the bites of ticks. Symptoms include fever and headache accompanied by a rash.

Our thanks go to the Sunshine Coast Council Community Partnership Funding Program for supporting the event. Thanks also to the Maleny Credit Union for the loan of their projector at very short notice, to enhance the powerpoint presentations. And we extend special thanks to our two presenters for giving their time and expertise in preparation and delivery of information on the evening, to inform us and answer our questions, And last, but by no means least, thanks to all of you who came along and contributed to the evening with your comments and questions.

(See page 10 for some useful information sources about ticks)

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More Wood for Everyone!

...cont'd from front page

In Richard Knight's 'The Art of Mortise and Tenon' workshops you'll learn to construct traditional mortise and tenon joints using simple hand tools. In his short workshops on Saturday you can make a mallet, walking stick or paper roll holder. And in the full day workshop on Sunday you'll work on a milking stool. Richard's workshops equip you with wood joining skills, and the knowledge to confidently salvage roadside and other timbers and recognize useful versus useless material.

If you want to learn more about actual timber, you can join a tree identification tour with Ashley Sewell who has over 40 years of experience and knowledge of our local vegetation, cabinet timbers and ecosystems. Visiting Jowarra and Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserves, he'll teach participants about the relationship between local geology and vegetation, selective harvesting, milling techniques and timber values for furniture and building.

To book the tour and workshops and for more information about the people behind this great program, visit malenywoodexpo.com/whats-on

Master carver, Don Powell assists student at 2013 Wood Expo.

Simple tools and techniques are used in Richard Knight's workshops.

Apart from getting involved in the wood world yourself, there is everything wooden made by our fabulous local and regional woodworkers, from superbly crafted fine furniture to hand whittled toys. There are also mobile millers, chainsaw carvers, musical instrument makers - the list goes on… The weekend really is jam-packed, so come along with family and friends to relax in the Expo's country atmosphere with free entertainment including a hay bale maze and other activities for the kids. It's a great day out while discovering the work that Barung does for the local community.

The Maleny Wood Expo is supported by Tourism and Events Queensland's Regional Development Program as part of a growing calendar of events throughout the state.

We're really grateful to have the support of HQPlantations, Queensland Water and Land Carers, Geochempet, the Maleny Chamber of Commerce, South East Queensland Catchments, the Hinterland Times and Carba-tec, along with the many local businesses that back the event with in-kind support. To stay up-to-date with the latest Wood Expo news, like us on Facebook or visit www.malenywoodexpo.com

Seed Matters

by Diana O'Connor

This was an excellent year for White Beech – *Gmelina leichardtii* fruiting. This is a species that has always been in short supply, due to slow germination times (up to 2 years), and poor germination percentages, I therefore tried a new method. The resulting rapid germination time of 1-2 months for a large percentage of the seed has delighted us.

You may remember that many settler cottages were built using White Beech as it is white ant resistant and durable. So here's what I did:

The tree was close by, so we went every day or so and collected newly fallen fruits. My hands can't do a lot of work these days, so I put the fruits in a woven, plastic, horse-feed bag and put this on bricks – these can get stained orange from the flesh. I then rolled my boot hard back and forth over them, washed out the flesh that had come away and repeated the process several times until the seeds were well cleaned. During this rough process I heard some crack and wondered if I were pressing too hard. I put the washed seeds in the sun to dry well – a day or so. I then wet them again and dried them in the full sun once more. Some then got a third wetting. I sowed them within a day or two. They were under heavy shade cloth in the nursery as I had observed that Hoop Pine seemed to do better in a low light situation. They were not allowed to dry out once sown. I have a suspicion that drying out even for part of the day, inhibits germination. They were sown on Jan 25. On Feb 23, we noticed about 20 plants in each tray were 2-3 cm high. Further germination has continued at a comparable rate.

You may like to experiment with what deviation from this would still work. I am now planning to use this foot-on-a-hard-surface method on other hard seeds such as Red Olive-plum - *Elaeodendron australe*, possibly White Cedar - *Melia azedarach* and also Crabapple - *Schizomeria ovata*. I'll be interested to know of other people's results, so we can build a data bank for good methods for species that are hard to germinate.

Newly fallen fruits of White Beech.

Cleaned seeds after fruit had been rubbed and washed several times.

In one month, the seeds germinated and grew to 2-3 cms in height.

Launch of Gardens for Wildlife program

by Rod Kerr

A new Barung Landcare program will be launched at a Maleny urban garden on Sunday 25th May from 2 - 4 pm.

Gardens for Wildlife aims to engage and support landholders to create wildlife-friendly gardens. It will provide a service for those who do not qualify for Land for Wildlife, which requires a minimum of 1 ha of native vegetation on the property. Gardens for Wildlife is an idea borrowed from the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment. Barung Landcare has been 'franchised' to deliver this very successful concept on the Sunshine Coast.

Barung Landcare was fortunate to receive Queensland Government support, through an Everyone's Environment grant funded through the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, to assist in the establishment of the Gardens for Wildlife program in the region.

President, Eric Anderson, said that the new program will provide recognition for the valuable role that gardens play in providing habitat for a wide range of local wildlife.

Amongst other benefits, members will receive a specially designed gate sign and 10 free plants from the Porter's Lane nursery when they sign up. The first 150 members will also have free entry to workshops and garden visits, and receive 10 free tree guards to protect their new plants. A range of fact sheets will assist gardeners in creating a more wildlife friendly environment through: the planting of attractive local ground-covers, flowers, shrubs and small trees; the identification of common garden weeds; lots of good ideas for sympathetic garden designs; and getting a better understanding of urban wildlife needs.

This pond is currently full of frogs. (photo: Rod Kerr)

Membership forms will be available at the launch, with Barung Landcare members receiving a $5 discount on a once only joining fee of $30. It will be great to see lots of people at the launch keen to do more gardening for wildlife, welcoming wildlife to share your garden and providing a healthy, beautiful, and weed-free environment. To attend, register at http://www.barunglandcare.org.au/gfw or phone 5494 3151.

Ferns, Hoya and water dish contribute to a garden environment that attracts wildlife.

Wildlife gardeners will receive this sign for their property.

Honey Eaters are attracted to the bottle brushes. *(photos: Joan Dillon)*

Wood Expo Raffle!

by Raine See

Once again, the Maleny business community has come up trumps with some fabulous prizes for the Wood Expo raffle. One of the key exhibitors, Carba-Tec, has donated a wooden box full of wood working tools worth over $1300; Maleny Mowers is donating a whippersnipper; Bamboo retreat, accommodation; Richard Knight, wooden articles and among many other great prizes, the Montville Woodies are making a beautiful hall table. Tickets are $2 each and are available singly or in books of 5 for $10. Purchasing a book of tickets puts you in the draw for the Bookbuyer's prize of a meal at Spicers Tamarind restaurant.

You can buy tickets at the kiosk on Maple Street on Thursdays, outside the Post Office on Friday mornings, outside IGA on Saturday mornings and at the Montville and Witta markets. If any member wants to sell a book or two at work or anywhere else, you can pick up books at the office in the Hinterland Business Centre. A roster is being set up for Expo selling as well. Anyone interested in helping with the selling of tickets either at Expo or in the community before the expo, please call Raine See on 0412031880.

Major prize from Carba-Tec is this package of woodworking tools valued at $1300.

Vale Denise Irons

by Lindsay Kruger

Denise Irons was a person you could never forget - an outstanding, generous person who understood the importance of friendly working relationships and big hugs, to achieve Barung Landcare's mission.

In the late 1980s, Denise was living in Montville, where she set up a large area for propagating seeds collected for Barung Landcare. She was a whiz at getting difficult seeds to propagate. At the time, the organisation was still growing and needed practical help and donated resources to manage the extensive plant varieties needed for our projects and for the nursery, located first at Maleny High School and then at Bicentenary Lane, Maleny.

Denise's enthusiasm, her people and technical skills as well as her good sense and laughter, made the nursery a good place to be. She volunteered at the nursery two days a week through the 1990s. Whatever role needed to be filled, whether co-ordinating volunteers or being on the Wood Expo committee, she was there.

Denise applied her resources and valuable time to help establish Barung as a great and influential community organisation and to achieve our aims and goals. Her commitment increased further in 1991, when she was elected to the management committee. For her remarkable devotion to our organization, Denise Irons was made a lifetime member of Barung Landcare.

Denise's dedication to environmental issues, even while ill, saw her involved in koala rescue, radio broadcasting, the Threatened Species Network and bird species surveys. In 1996, Denise received the Unsung Environmentalist of the year award.

After being diagnosed with cancer in the late 1990s, Denise moved to Cooran to live with her daughter, Jacky, while undergoing treatment. A recurrence of the illness and the severity of treatment, caused a slow deterioration in her health. Denise passed away on 1 March 2014. The Barung Landcare community extends sincere condolences to Denise's family.

Denise at her home in Cooran.

Vale Bill Egerton

by Diana O'Connor

Professor William Egerton, known to Barung members as 'Bill', died last month at his home in Montville. Few realised that this humble man, was an eminent vascular surgeon and medical educator. He was a pioneer in open-heart surgery, working in Canada on the development of the heart-lung machine and also did early research on liver transplantation. Bill was an avid supporter of Barung since joining on 22nd February 1991. Many of us witnessed his love of the rainforest and his involvement in community with volunteer work. Despite working hard at enhancing his own block of rainforest at Montville, he found time to work for years with us in Russell Family Park, swinging a mattock into his eighties. He attended Roving Restorers, planted trees on the Precinct, helped with our clean-up at the Genesis property, folded Barung Newsletters, sold raffle tickets and volunteered at the Wood Expo. You never knew where he would pitch in. He loved poetry, and was in the Scottish Dancing Group in Maleny. We shall miss this remarkable and humble man's presence among us. We extend our kind thoughts to his partner Gretchen Evens at this very sad time.

Range Bees

by Dianne Clarke

This is a series of shots taken over an hour of a *Hylaeus* (*Hylaeorhiza*) *nubilosus* sealing its nest in my bee wall.

First she sealed it with an opaque, cellophane-like membrane....

...then she made a second layer of mud that she 'borrowed' from a nearby nest. (photos: Dianne Clarke)

She is borrowing mud from the top left nest as another bee is emerging from the middle nest. Her nest is bottom right.

The Ornamental Garden

by Joan Dillon

The main ornamental garden bed has been sadly neglected due to lack of water, lack of time, and the need for a total makeover. The key trees and shrubs will stay, but the remainder will be removed or pruned. The new version will be a 'gardener's garden', i.e. with a clearer structure, additional colour, and access paths. No more clambering through on hands and knees to get at the inevitable weeds brought in by our delightful birds. The whip birds, happily established in the present jungle, will need to temporarily relocate but there's plenty of suitable habitat close by, which is an important consideration.

In the meantime, pruning techniques have been practised in the 'wallum' garden. Regular tip pruning has encouraged branching and the *Phebalium woombye*, a real favourite, *Acacia hubbardiana* and *Hovea acutifolia* are already a mass of flower buds. I was accused of practising topiary on my *Pultanaea villosa* but there's little doubt that flowering will be prolific come spring. The attractive Wedge-leaf Hop Bush, *Dodonaea viscosa ssp. cuneata* has required constant attention but is becoming a very attractive dense shrub. Apparently wallabies browse it, and I would be more than happy if the resident young wallaby paid attention to this shrub instead of several others!

Cuttings of various ground covers are now being grown in pots ready for planting in the 'new' garden. Seedlings of *Pseuderanthemum variabile,* Love Flower, have been established and will be trialled in a mass planting in a shaded, well-drained area.

We often forget our little plants, which can be lovely grouped together. *Hybanthus stellarioides*, Spade Flower, has been an interesting discovery but is generally found in eucalypt forest so is not entirely happy in my heavy, basalt soil. It is important to know your soils, which of course does not preclude experimenting. Just be prepared to fail sometimes.

In another part of the garden, experimenting with orchids has been a learning exercise. Epiphytes and lithophytes are preferred, as they require little attention and lithophytes in particular add real interest to a rock pile or rock garden. The very common *Dendrobium kingianum* establishes readily and adds colour in season just under the edge of a tree in light shade. The correct light level and excellent air circulation, seem to be the main keys to success. Regular liquid feeding also helps.

It looks as though *Spiranthes sinensis*, Ladies' Tresses, is spreading of its own accord. This is a very pretty little orchid with tiny bright pink and white flowers in a spiral up the stem in spring. It may be found in lawns but is usually not recognised, so gets mown. Its natural habitat is eucalypt forest.

Anyone visiting the Glasshouse Mountains will probably see *Geodorum densiflorum*, Shepherd's Crook Orchid, a much larger ground orchid with broad pleated leaves. This one has been successful in a wide shallow pot in a sandy mix and has a long flowering period. All of the plants mentioned can be looked up in 'Mangroves to Mountains'.

Chainsaw Courses in May

Chainsaw Level 1 & 2 and ACDC (Agricultural Chemical Distributions Control) Courses at Barung Landcare are being held on Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd May 2014. For prices and more information, email: info@barunglandcare.org.au or call the Barung Resource centre office on Ph: 5494 3151.

New & Rejoining Members

Ananda Marga River School
Bob & Connie Vigar
Carole Vardy
Elaine Ricketts
Gail Cooling
Geraldine Butler-Fitzgerald
Mark & Rossana Denham
Mary-Ellen Green
Nancy & Malcom Baker
Peter Erdmann
R & M Cooper
Robert Kalkaus
Tony Glazebrook and Deborah Yffer
Trevor Meers

Interesting Reading

...about ticks by Jonathan Waites

- **Paralysis Ticks,** http://www.animaloptions.com.au/paralysis-ticks/
- **The Australian Paralysis Tick - Fact Sheet. Google for PDF**
- **Ticks (General) - Fact Sheet. Google for PDF**
- **Ticks and tick-borne diseases protecting yourself,** http://www.aabr.org.au/learn/publications-presentations/ticks-and-tick-borne-diseases-protecting-yourself-2/
- **Ticks and people in the Australian bush,** http://theoutdoortype.com.au/2011/03/15/ticks-and-people-in-the-australian-bush/
- **Ticks,** http://medent.usyd.edu.au/fact/ticks.htm

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Hinterland Bush Links

Susie Duncan	Coordinator

And our many Volunteers, Labour Team Participants and Members
We respectfully acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land.